IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Brief Description of the Drawings paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1 with the follow-rewritten paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a more complete understanding of the present invention, and the advantages thereof, reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 illustrates, in block diagram form, a data processing network in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 illustrates, in block diagram form, a data processing system implemented in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 3A illustrates, in flowchart form, a connection management thread in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 3B illustrates, in flowchart form, a session thread in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 3C illustrates, in flowchart form, an error handling thread which may be used with the session thread of FIGURE 3B;

FIGURE 3D illustrates, in flowchart form, a retry timer thread, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 4 illustrates, in flowchart form, a methodology implemented to determine priority resource availability in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIGURE 5 schematically illustrates a repeater connection list which may be used in an embodiment of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 11, page 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Returning to step 304, while the queue is not empty, thread 300 proceeds through the queue to schedule distributions for sending to a target repeater or endpoint as appropriate. In step 306 307 it is determined if a current job is ready for scheduling. If not, in step 308 thread 300 proceeds to the next job. A job may be determined to be ready for scheduling by determining the job state. If the job state has a first predetermined value, which in an embodiment of the present invention may be referred to as "WAITING", then the job is ready for dispatch. The setting of the job state for a particular job will be described below in conjunction with steps 382-384, and 386, FIGURE 3C.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1, page 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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If, in step 306 307, the current job is ready for scheduling, in step 310 the session pools are searched. As indicated hereinabove, distributions may have one of three priorities, high, medium, or low. Each repeater has a pool of sessions, or threads, which are run to transfer data to a target system, either a target repeater or an target endpoint, as appropriate for the particular distribution. As discussed further below, a logical connection to the target system is established for a new job unless the connection is already present because of an ongoing distribution to the same target. A connection can have multiple logical sessions associated with it. Each new session between repeaters or a repeater and an endpoint will establish a network channel or path to transfer data, so between a repeater and an endpoint or another repeater, there can be multiple sessions to execute jobs. That is, there may be parallel data transfer to the same target.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 16, page 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Returning to FIGURE 3A, if, in step 312, it is determined a session is available to the job as reported in step 450, FIGURE 4, then the session is reserved in step 314. Otherwise, if it is reported not available, step 440, FIGURE 4, step 312 proceeds by the "No" branch to step ~~306~~ 307. Because, as previously described, jobs are enqueued in priority order, the unavailability of a session for the current job also means that the succeeding jobs cannot also be scheduled because they have a priority that is the same or lower than the current job. Thread 300 then loops in step 308 for an event indicating that a session has become available, which then triggers thread 300 via the "yes" branch in step 308. Similarly as discussed below, an "UNREACHABLE" state job may become available, whereby the state goes to "WAITING", which will also trigger scheduling.